

CLAIMS:

12. (currently amended) A reader ~~as claimed in claim 1 comprising for an electronic radio frequency identification system comprising a plurality of transponders to be read by the reader, the reader comprising:~~

a first recovery circuit for recovering and separating an upper sideband and a lower sideband of a modulated response signal from one of the transponders;

a first evaluating circuit for evaluating and selecting one of the upper sideband and the lower sideband for output to a next stage, based on the evaluation; and

a second recovery circuit for recovering and separating an upper sideband and a lower sideband of a modulated response signal from one of the transponders.

13. (currently amended) A reader as claimed in claim 12 wherein the response signal is coupled to the second recovery circuit by a second directional coupler cooperating with ~~the~~ a strip line